

Serial No. 09/818,943

Attorney Docket: 1064/48487

CHANGES TO THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing a transgenic mouse ~~overexpressing~~ which overexpresses a polypeptide having platelet-derived growth factor C (PDGF-C) activity and develops hypertrophy or fibrosis in at least one of its organs in its life time, the method comprising the steps of:

a) introducing a transgenic DNA into a mouse cell, said transgenic DNA comprising a polynucleotide sequence operably linked to a suitable promoter, said polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2;

b) allowing said cell from step a) to develop into a transgenic mouse,

wherein said cell of step a) is a pronuclei of a fertilized oocyte, said method further comprising implanting said fertilized oocyte into a pseudopregnant mouse; or

wherein said cell of step a) is an embryonic stem cell; said DNA is integrated into a genomic DNA of said embryonic stem cell; and said embryonic stem cell is introduced into a developing embryo.

2-4. (cancelled)

5. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said promoter is selected from the group consisting of alpha-myosin heavy chain promoter, keratin K14 promoter, and insulin promoter.

6. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transgenic DNA is operably linked to an epitope tag.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the epitope tag is c-myc.

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8. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transgenic DNA is operably linked to a marker sequence.

9. (previously amended) The mouse produced by the method of claim 1.

10-11. (cancelled)

12. (previously amended) The mouse that is a descendant from the mouse according to claim 9.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously amended) The mouse according to Claim 9, wherein the mouse is homozygous with regard to the transgenic DNA.

15. (previously amended) A cell isolated from a mouse according to claim 9.

16-17. (cancelled)

18. (previously amended) A fertilized mouse oocyte containing transgenic DNA that encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

19. (previously amended) A mouse embryonic stem cell containing transgenic DNA that encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

20. (currently amended) A method for identifying a compound as a PDGF-C antagonist, said method comprising the steps of:

introducing said compound into a transgenic mouse ~~overexpressing a polypeptide having platelet derived growth factor C (PDGF-C) activity~~ according to Claim 9;

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monitoring *in vitro* a biological activity of PDGF-C in an isolated cell from said mouse; and

identifying said compound as a PDGF-C antagonist where PDGF-C biological activity is inhibited.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A method for identifying a compound as a PDGF-C antagonist, said method comprising the steps of:

exposing to said compound a cell isolated from a transgenic mouse according to Claim 9 ~~overexpressing a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2;~~

assaying an effect of said compound on said cell *in vitro*; and

identifying said compound as a PDGF-C antagonist where the PDGF-C biological activity of said cell is altered.

23. (previously amended) A method of screening a compound for inhibition of hypertrophy, comprising the steps of:

administering a pharmaceutically active amount of said compound to a transgenic mouse ~~overexpressing a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2~~ according to Claim 9; and

monitoring cardiac development of said mouse;

determining said compound inhibits hypertrophy where said cardiac development is inhibited when compared to a control transgenic mouse in the absence of said compound.

24. (previously amended) A method of screening a compound for inhibition of fibrosis, comprising the steps of:

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administering a pharmaceutically active amount of said compound to a transgenic mouse according to Claim 26 ~~overexpressing a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2; and~~

monitoring the cardiac development of said mouse;

determining said compound inhibits fibrosis where said cardiac development is inhibited when compared to a non-treated control transgenic mouse.

25. (previously amended) A transgenic mouse according to Claim 9, wherein the mouse is heterozygous with regard to the transgenic DNA encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

26. (new) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the promoter is expressed in the heart and the transgenic mouse develops heart hypertrophy or fibrosis.

27. (new) A method according to Claim 26, wherein the promoter is a heart-specific promoter.

28. (new) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the transgenic mouse develops hypertrophy or fibrosis in at least one organ selected from the group consisting of heart, liver, kidney, pancreas, and ovary.